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To K. O. Sessions

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Potentillas
By Frank F. Gander

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Have You Tried Potentillas?

By FRANK GANDER

The Potentillas or Five-fingers are an interesting group of herbaceous perennials suitable for use in rock gardens, in borders, or in beds with other perennials. Several species have long been in cultivation, and of the eight species which occur wild in this county, at least three are suitable for use in the garden. Undoubtedly some of the others as well will prove useful, but so far as I know, they have not as yet been tried.

My favorite of the group is the white-flowered *Potentilla truncata*, a rare species which is found in just a few places in this vicinity and in the northern part of Baja California. It forms a tuft of pinnately compound leaves five or six inches high and perhaps twice as broad from which leafy stems rise one or two feet to bear loose cymes of five-petaled white flowers. *Potentilla* flowers are not large, usually about half an inch in diameter. The foliage of this plant is quite aromatic. *P. truncata* should be planted in partial shade and should have a regular supply of water. I have found it in full sun on quite arid hillsides, but it never looks happy under such conditions. It likes to grow near the margin of some perennial stream and in such situations becomes a truly lovely plant. It thrives for me in my bog garden, in my lath houselet, and in gallon cans in full sun. It is easily propagated by cuttings.

The most abundant species of this region is *Potentilla glandulosa* which is coarser and larger than my favorite and has yellow flowers. I have seen this used very effectively in rock gardens in San Diego and have so used it myself. The attractive yellow flowers are produced quite freely throughout the greater part of spring and summer. Unfortunately, the glandular foliage has an odor which is not pleasing, but this is not noticeable when the plant is disturbed or is in hot sunlight.

P. Clevelandii is found wild in grassy places in our mountains, and I have not grown it long enough to know all of its possibilities. Of several cuttings which were rooted successfully, one is doing well in my rock garden, and others are thriving in cans. This species has long, narrow pinnate leaves with many leaflets, and it spreads these in flat mats on the ground. The flower stems rise to about ten inches high, and the flowers are white and rather star-like. All three species mentioned so far may sometimes be obtained at the nurseries.

Of the remaining species, *Potentilla gracilis* is the showiest member of the genus in the county. Its bright yellow flowers are comparatively large, and its palmate leaves are divided into five long "fingers." It grows in mountain meadows. *P. Lindleyi* is somewhat like *P. truncata* but with darker

foliage. It is more suited to dry situations and occurs from the San Luis Rey valley northward. *P. saxosa* should be fine for rock gardens as it grows in tight crevices in granite boulders of the desert foothills. *P. millegrana* is another desert species, and *P. norvegica* var. *hirsuta* is a wide ranging form which grows by Cuyamaca Lake and at Sweetwater. This last has rather inconspicuous flowers.

There is much experimental work yet to be done in the growing of these rosaceous plants. Not only should additional species be brought into cultivation; all of them should be tried in new places—in flower pots, in window boxes, etc. Yet, although there is much still to be learned about the care of the Potentillas, anyone can plant *truncata* or *glandulosa* with assurance that they will have no trouble in making the plants grow. These are not expensive and can sometimes be procured from the better class nurseries.

Frank F. Gander,
Curator of Botany,
Natural History Museum.

Rotarians of the world will soon be trekking to the annual convention in Cleveland. Unfortunately there will be none from Germany. Some of the delegates of this internationally minded group, it is hoped, will see the gardens discussed on page 4 of this issue and take the message home. It may be that some pilgrim from San Diego may see them and bring the good word back to us.—R.S.H.

The May Garden

By Walter Birch, Jr.

During May one may plant much the same list of Seeds as for last month. We will just run through them to refresh our memory. Ageratum or Floss Flower, Amaranthus, Asters both Single and Double Wilt Resistant varieties very much preferred, Balsam or Touch Me Not, Carnations; these will bloom in about six months from seed, Calendula or Pot Marigold, Celosia or Cockscomb, Centaurea both the Sweet Sultan varieties and the Bachelor Button or Cornflower, Calliopsis, Cosmos, single, double or Orange Flare, Bellis or Double Daisies, Annual Chrysanthemums or Painted Daisies, Candytuft, the Giant Hyacinth Flowered is quite useful as a cut flower, Dianthus or Pinks, Gypsophila or Baby's Breath, Hunnemannia or Mexican Tulip Poppy, seeds sown this month will bloom in July and all through the Fall months; the semi-double Sunlite is about the most attractive variety. Lobelia for borders, Larkspur, African Marigolds the Gigantea Sunset Giants or the old favorite Orange and Lemon shades. Nasturtium, Nemesia, Nicotiana, Nigella or Love in a Mist, Phlox Drummondii, Petunia, Portulaca or Moss Rose for Summer borders in a sunny situation. Salvia or Scarlet Sage, Salpiglossis, Scabiosa or Pin Cushion Flower, Schizanthus or Poor Man's Orchid, Sunflower, Statice and Zinnia.

Vine Seeds: Hyacinth Bean, Scarlet Runner Beans, Australian Pea Vine, Japanese Hop Vine, Cypress Vine, Kudzu Vine, Morning Glories, the new Scarlet O'Hara, Ornamental Gourds are very interesting and attractive, coming as they do in a great variety of sizes, shapes and colors.

Plants of a good many of the above list of Annuals are available at this time also some perennials such as: Penstemon, Delphinium, Foxglove, Violets, Carnations, and Nierembergia hippomanica or Dwarf Cup Flower, that dandy little border plant that was mentioned last month, plants of which that

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Meyer Medal Signal Honor to K. O. Sessions . . .



The bronze Meyer medal was established in honor of the agricultural explorer, Frank N. Meyer, who lost his life in the Yangtze river in 1918, after many years of plant exploration in China and Central Asia. It was designed by the sculptor, Theodore Spicer-Simson to portray on one face the earliest expedition in recorded history which was made for the purpose of introducing useful plants from one country into another—that of Queen Hatshepsut of the eighteenth dynasty of Egyptian civilization, about 1570 B. C. It portrays the loading of the incense trees which she brought from the land of Punt to her palace at Thebes, and is taken from the large bas-relief which she had executed on one of her palace walls. The trees are shown being carried up the gangplank onto the deck of the Queen's ahahabiyeh, preparatory for sailing to Alexandria.

On the reverse side is reproduced in Chinese the poem of Chik'ang, a poet of the Tang Dynasty, 618 A.D. "In the glorious luxuriance of the hundred plants he takes delight," also the cones of the white barked Pine and the Tsao or Jujube of China—two plant introductions made by Frank N. Meyer into America.

Miss Kate Sessions is known to us as a famous horticulturist. Her wonderful ability to interest people

in growing plants introduced by her and others has been recognized by the award of the Meyer Medal given by The American Genetic Association at their meeting in Pasadena. Miss Sessions is the first woman to receive this honor.

David Fairchild in his book "The World Was My Garden" tells much about Meyer. He is described as a young Hollander who had been head gardener under the famous botanist Prof. De Vries, in Amsterdam. He came to America and appeared so keen a horticulturist that he was taken over by the Department of Agriculture in Washington and sent to Asia, especially to China. In the course of his numerous journeys he found many plants which he sent back. Many of Meyer's plants have been grown at the experimental gardens at Chico in the Sacramento Valley. Meyer eventually lost his life in China in 1918 and when they examined his will it was found he had left \$1000 to the Office Force for an outing some where in his honor or if the Force so voted, it could be divided equally among all the members and as there were 100, this would mean \$10 to each member. David Fairchild says "It was the unanimous opinion of the Force that we should have a medal made in his honor, call it the Meyer Medal, and present it for meritorious

(Continued on Page 9)

Flower Arrangement Class

In his third lesson in flower arrangement which the Floral Association sponsored, Norman Edwards did some of his most outstanding pieces.

For his first study he chose a bowl shaped form with the edge turned up and outward. The tones of the container were a lavender buff. His flowers were lavender-blue stocks, anemones, and a very few white alliums added for sparkle. As he worked, Mr. Edwards explained his reasons for executing each step. The arrangement, he said, should conform to the flare of the bowl. All plant material should be so placed that in the finished composition one would have the feeling that the air carried around through it all. The flowers should be placed with a growing and a radiating movement. An obvious horizontal line should not be created by the tops of the stems. The flower stalks should not all spurt from one central point, but should have the feeling of being attached to the container. The enthusiasm with which the members of the class applauded the completion of this masterpiece spoke for itself.

William Allen demonstrated the making of a very formal modern arrangement suitable for a large bouquet table, an alcove, a hall table against a wall or mirror, or a public room done in modern architecture. He used a tall, pale yellow cylinder. His spectacular cone-shaped arrangement, which measured perhaps three feet high, was composed of white and of pale yellow stocks. It was made entirely in the hands, each spray wired on to the others as the work progressed. The interstices were filled with the radiating tips of the new yellow green foliage of the pittosporum, so that the finished effect gave one the feeling of an upward reaching spiral, combined with radiation.

Only artists could do such things as these men did, when they placed a purple-red cabbage with pansies, yellow tulips, stocks and alliums in a clear white glass stemmed container; or when they used three

canna leaves, a spray or two of anemones, one of gypsophila and a few alliums in a three foot high urn of deep blue glass.

In the fourth and final class, Norman Edwards and William Allen demonstrated the use of bottles, of figures, and of vegetables, and put over some very definite art principles.

These artists believe that in placing plant material in a container, it should be placed in line with the main direction and then broken away. The form of the composition should always be related to the form of the container. All movements should be harmonized, so that one movement does not suddenly break away from the main movement. In fruit and vegetable arrangements, develop the arrangement by picking up the definite direction of the stem end. In making sparse arrangements, be careful not to use too much material, for every line counts. All arrangements should be easy and natural and a comfortable effect created. Arrangements should not have a home-made look when finished, but should be tailored and clean cut and professional looking. In handling color, remember that color can be overdone. Do not go around the whole wheel of color, but work for harmony and contrasts. A notable feature of Mr. Edwards' work is his very sparing use of color. Green predominates, as in nature.

Mr. Edwards emphasized again and again that the principle of subordination covers about everything in connection with flower arrangements. There should be one idea and everything else should be subordinate to it. The eye should move rhythmically from one point or from one object in the composition to another point or to another object. There should be more than one interest, but all the minor interests should be in harmony with and in subordination to the main interest.

Mr. Edwards also made a plea for the use of and the appreciation of the sparse arrangement, which, it is true, calls for greater skill in composing than does the formal, unrestrained type. He believes that the achievement of restfulness and

simplicity of line, of naturalness in the use of color, with green predominating, and of harmony of design should be the goal of flower arrangers.

The sixty-five members who have attended the series of four lessons given by Norman Edwards and William Allen, feel with one accord that these artists have accomplished much in perfecting the technique of their pupils and have by their flower arrangements and by their own calm personalities demonstrated harmonies and restful design.

—Alice Greer.

THE TAIL-TALE OF CACTUS

I once had a garden of old fashioned blooms

Tuberose and violets, sweet alysums and blooms

Small plants for borders and tapering tall

Plants, whose life made a shelter for all.

I moved from the country to a city near by.

My plants would have care and I knew they'd not die.

But lonely was I 'till a wistful-eyed fellow

Came to me as a gift, in his pottery yellow.

I've grown very fond of my botanically-tailed plant

Though his prickles are fierce, his sigh is a chant

And his non-wagging tail paints in the blue sky,

"I'm your garden, dear lady, 'The Tail-Tale of Cacti'."

Mary Green Payson

Cover . . .

Masonry with English or Boston ivy, climbing euonymus, Bignonia Tweediana, climbing fig or, if it can be found, that delightful miniature of Boston ivy, the variety lowi.

A bank with *Cotoneaster microphylla*, *Euphorbia splendens*, the large, light blue *plumbago*, *Pyraecantha yunnanensis*, juniper, *sollya* or the low *Mahernia verticillata* which Miss Sessions praised so highly at the last garden meeting.

Ned Culvers garden of cans and what-nots with a shroud or one of the words he eventually found.

Gardens Toward Peace in the World

The Garden of Peace at La Plata, Argentine Republic, is one of the most beautiful symbols of Peace. It was made with the national flowers of all the countries. All the nations of the world have thus been assembled in a small parcel of Argentine ground, in the most absolute peace.

It was planned and created by Engineer Alberto V. Oitaven, director of parks and gardens of La Plata, Argentine Republic. It was the first to be formed in the world and 51 countries are already represented in it through their national flower which was in most cases sent by the respective national government.

This Argentine idea was friendly received everywhere and has now become a universal idea.

Engineer Oitaven has widely spread the ideals of his Garden of Peace all over the world. He has also suggested to the various national governments the convenience of forming Gardens of Peace as a means to spread the idea of peace among the peoples and to bring about a better knowledge and understanding among men.

Engineer Oitaven's wishes deserve to be widespread through the world and still more so in these critical times when the nations of Europe seem to be possessed by a warlike spirit which threatens universal peace.

The creator of the Garden of Peace is constantly receiving marks of admiration and congratulations. Among others he has lately received one from the World League for the Permanent Peace of the United States of America which considers the idea as of "the greatest importance and value for the peace of the world."

The Hon. Harold H. Burton, Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, tells in the *Rotarian* of a unique chain of 19 gardens located there in Rockefeller Park. Unlike any others in the world, they have been sponsored and built by the people of the many national groups who have made Cleveland their home. The aim of the project is to encourage

interracial friendship among the city's people.

The Shakespeare Garden came first. It was started in 1916 on the 300th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare. Designed in Elizabethan style, this lovely garden is formed of hedge-bordered walks, patterned beds, and topiary work. Near the bust of Shakespeare, which is the focus of attention in the Garden, grows a mulberry tree which is said to be a descendant of one planted by Shakespeare in Stratford.

Across the Upper Drive is the Hebrew Garden, begun in 1926. More oriental in character, it lies in a circle, enclosing garden walks in the form of a six-pointed Shield of David. At four of these points are memorials to Hebrew philosophers.

A short space away is the German Garden. It was dedicated in 1929 as part of the Lessing-Moses Mendelssohn bicentennial observance. Its dominating feature is the heroic statue of Goethe and Schiller. Adjoining is the Hungarian Garden, dedicated to Franz Liszt. Plans for it were prepared in Budapest. Next is the Greek Garden, to be completed this Spring. It is a sunken garden, different in style from the others. It will contain a bas-relief representing many cultural leaders of Greece, from Socrates and Phidias to El Greco. To the north is the Italian Garden, representative of the Italian Renaissance. This was dedicated on Columbus day in 1930, marking the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Virgil. Across a drive is the Czechoslovak Garden. Near-by is the Yugoslav Garden, dedicated in its completed form in 1938. The most northerly garden is the Polish Garden, dedicated to Chopin.

Among the other gardens that are partially completed or still are being planned are the Slovak Garden, the Syrian Hillside Garden, the Ukrainian Garden, and the Irish Garden.

South of the Cultural Gardens themselves lie the American Le-

gion Peace Gardens, dedicated to peace among the nations and progress among the United States. Here has been symbolized the unity of the origin and of the nature of the several lands represented and the ease with which the earth of each nation readily can be made by man to serve a common purpose of life and growth.

Wanted a Word

E. H. Culver, Building Inspector

Wanted! A word! A suitable word, descriptive of the animaculae who desecrate the public domain and offend public decency by depositing their garbage and trash along the highways, streets and parkways instead of putting them in receptacles for the rubbish collector.

Were I endowed with the vocabulary of Rabelais, Shakespeare and Noah Webster himself I could not find a word suitable to properly describe this vile creature.

There is scarcely a canyon, roadside or vacant piece of property within a hundred yards of a dwelling that does not show evidences of these sneaking scoundrels and their dumps of trash and garbage.

Drive around the city and environs and see the number of beautiful spots, natural parks and scenic drives adorned with such wonderful native shrubs—toyon, lilac, fremontia, sage, chemirral, manzanita, sumac and the thousand and one varieties of flowers; with a pile of old tin cans, bottles, rags, crockery and the Lord only knows what not scattered among them, and if your gorge does not rise to the point of committing at least mayhem on the miserable wretch responsible for it, your love for beauty in nature has been sadly neglected.

There is probably no city in the whole United States that has a better refuse collection service or a more obliging personnel than our own San Diego and why in Heaven's name anyone should load his car down with rubbish and cart it out and dump it onto someone else's property or the public highway, when all he has to do is to

place it in a receptacle in the street or alley and call the Rubbish Collection Department, is beyond human comprehension.

I have often wondered just what motivates such a miserable miscreant, what his philosophy of life must be, what his breeding was, if any, what squalid quarters he must inhabit and how any decent person could be so inconsiderate of his fellow being. Is he a harmless, foolish nitwit, without brains or a sense of decency, a low bred selfish oaf who simply knows no better, or is he one of those naturally "ornery" individuals, filled with pure cussedness, disregard of law and a "public be damned" spirit, an offense to society and a blot on the community.

Anyone with a sense of civic pride or common decency is above such abominable offenses. If it were the act of some lousy bum, it would not be surprising, but such is not the case. It is done by someone who has a home and a car.

Any citizen of San Diego ought to be proud of himself in conducting himself in such a disgusting manner and littering the landscape of his own home town with trash and filth when even a dog will not defile his own kennel, a skunk pollute his own den or a buzzard besmirch his own nest.

Time and time again have visitors scored San Diego in print and speech for allowing these conditions to exist. It is bad enough to have regular rubbish dumps adjacent to the highway as at Lemon Grove Boulevard and Fairmount Avenue, but to have trash, rubbish and filth scattered along all paved streets not lined with houses, is adding insult to injury.

It is the duty of every citizen who sees or knows of anyone dumping rubbish or garbage along the highways or any place other than regular dumps, to notify the police or rubbish departments and appear in court when called upon to testify against the guilty parties.

Let us get together and aid these two departments in putting a stop to these abominations.—Municipal Employee.

Dahlia Culture

By MOUNEY C. PFEFFERKORN

Although the history of the dahlia is a long and quite interesting one, I feel that my task should only concern itself primarily with suggestions and actual facts which might become useful to the beginner. However, I earnestly recommend the reading of books on the history of the dahlia, which, no doubt, can be purchased in any bookstore or borrow from a library.

Dahlias will grow in almost any kind of soil if properly planted and cultivated; good drainage is an absolute necessity.

Select an open, sunny location, afternoon shade preferred, away from the reach of shrubs and trees. About February first spade the soil to a depth of 1 foot and work in some well decayed stable fertilizer. It is advisable to dig in also pulverized lime for the purpose of sweetening the soil. Ten days before planting time, spread mildly a preparation named vaporite, known to destroy insects so plentiful in our soil and so harmful in many respects. Then turn the soil over again and rake ground evenly.

When the 10 days are over you may begin planting your tubers. In California this may be done any time after April first, although according to experts May first should be preferred. After all, dahlias are considered fall flowers and will do much better when the air turns cooler.

Procure your tubers or plants from reliable dealers who will not only supply you with healthy specimens but in addition will assist you with friendly advice. Beginners rarely ever have an idea as to value of tubers. Some believe that a dozen may be purchased for \$1.00, others are of the opinion that a first-class variety is only for the rich. While it is true that new introductions, so-called gold medal and honor roll winners, may cost from ten to twenty dollars per tuber the first year, it is also true that after having been grown for several years, some of the finest

tubers can be purchased for 50 cents. Growers often plant hundreds of seedlings annually to produce one real new first-class variety; it takes three more years to have it firmly established, quite an expense to the introducer, who in most cases breaks only even.

Dig a hole 1 foot deep and about 18 inches in diameter, holes at least three feet apart. Take a spadeful of cow manure or a handful of bonemeal and mix it well; then cover with 2-3 inches of the soil taken from the hole and flatten either with your feet or a board; drive a stake into the middle of the whole; stake should be 1 inch square, 6 feet high and driven 1 foot deep, (label can be attached to stake), lay tuber down flat with sprout $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from stake; cover sprout with a handful of dry sand which will protect the sprout against cutworms and insects; add 4 inches more of soil and pack lightly. As the sprout grows in size fill in soil gradually until 2 inches from the top. If more than one shoot develops, leave the strongest intact, scrape soil carefully away until the tuber is reached and then by using a sharp knife cut away extra sprouts but be careful not to cut into the tuber. Then take soil consisting of $\frac{3}{4}$ sand and $\frac{1}{4}$ screened leafmold, thoroughly mixed, fill a pot 3 inches wide and 4 inches deep, plant sprout 2 inches deep, water every day for a week, then every other day. It is suggested that the top of the pot be covered with leafmold which will prevent the baking of the soil and that during the first week pots be kept in a shady place. After 3 weeks these plants will have developed roots and are ready for transplanting in the open. Such plants not only produce beautiful flowers during the first year but new roots as well.

Contrary to belief, dahlia tubers need very little water until the sprouts are well developed, say about 1 foot high; then water thoroughly. (Continued on Page 8)

Spring Flower Show

By Ada Perry

Well, here I'm to write a story about the flower show—the Floral Association's 32nd, and it's a pleasant task and every one was so kind about giving me my own sweet way doing it . . . (Incidentally that's one of the best ways of getting some one to do something or am I telling you?) There's only one thing bothering me—shall I mention names and leave some out as sure as fate? . . . Or shall I mention no names and play safe? Being a woman the last sounds attractive to me.

Anyway, the flower show is still the fragrant, interesting place where gardener meets gardener, and arranger meets arranger, and a lot of charming, perfectly normal people (I'm looking, honest)! wander in and speak to you and enjoy the flowers . . . Saw Mrs. — wait a minute . . . no names . . . anyway she's superintendent of the Helping Hand Children's Home... people like that were there, whom you haven't much chance of seeing often.

We went around and about and through and I'm going to mention just what caught my eye . . . Scribblers are selfish that way and they should worry whether ribbons are pinned on the things they like or not . . . The iris section was lovely only I was hypnotized by that Indian Chief in a bronze bowl, drat him, and didn't get around to the others as much as I should have.

The only woman ever to win a Meyer medal had a most intriguing yellow salvia (with big yellow blossoms) and that hypnotized me also . . . Her creeping Ceanothus impressus didn't help matters much, either . . . I wish I would get over these crushes on plants . . . And that arrangement in a dusky yellow boat of palm husk, filled with some kind of dusky yellow moonbeams (weeds any other place, I'll bet) and sailing across a turquoise moon—well, it was a dream—the kind I'd like to have more of . . . There was a turquoise Chinese saint limned into it, too.

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Problems of the Soil

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

SEEDLING AVOCADOS

Question—Several years ago I planted three avocado seeds and the trees from them have grown quite large but they have little if any fruit on. How soon should they bear and is there anything that can be done to hasten bearing?—H.L.

Answer — Sometimes seedlings will begin to bear in three or four years and sometimes it is much longer than that. It is, of course, problematical what you will get, possibly something good but probably not. If the fruit is not particularly valuable, as indicated by the few fruits you have had, it would pay to have the trees worked over to a standard, known variety. Strong seedling trees that have not been moved from the place they were planted originally, will make the finest kind of stocks to work good varieties on. There is a method of hastening the bearing of reluctant trees consisting of removing a ring of bark from the trunk or individual branches, the process being known as "ringing," but the general experience is that if one has to resort to ringing to induce a tree to bear, it is much better to work it over to something else.

CUTWORMS

Question—I am having some trouble in my garden with something that eats the young plants just they come through the ground and get to be a couple of inches high. I have lost some peas and beans and cucumbers. I also have found sprouts from a grapevine cut off and on the ground. Can you tell me what is doing this and the remedy?—T.J.

Answer—If it were the young vegetables only, one might reasonably guess that either birds or snails might be responsible but if young grape shoot are being attacked also, the answer is probably cutworms. Their attack on grapes is quite characteristic although it usually comes a little earlier in the season. For either snails or cutworms a

poisoned bran mash is recommended. You can either buy it already prepared or you can make your own as follows: mix together dry, three pounds of bran and three teaspoonfuls of paris green or white arsenic. Then add 12 teaspoonfuls of molasses (cheap black strap preferred) and three-quarters of a lemon or orange ground fine. Mix well and add enough water to make a dry or crumbly mash which will broadcast easily. Scatter around the plants it is desired to protect, never directly on them else burning may occur. It should be needless to say that poultry and pets should not be allowed to have access to this poison. Better results will be obtained if it is scattered just before dark as cutworms are night feeders.

Question—I have had some trouble in rooting the soft green wood of a special kind of geranium I want very much to have. Have tried rooting it in sand and suspending in water, but the cuttings have always rotted. It has not been possible to get cuttings of the older wood. Can you advise?—Mrs. M.

Answer—If the cuttings are too soft and succulent they will rot, as you have discovered. You might try drying them out for ten days or two weeks before putting them in the sand box. If the surplus moisture is driven out before planting you will have better luck.

Grant School Studies Wildflowers

Ada Perry will tell of the Flower Show. May the editor speak of another surprising exhibit that was completely captivating from the standpoint of origin, purpose and scope. Wild flowers from the desert, high mesa, mountain and the sea-shore, came together at this San Diego Elementary School for the instruction of the children, and remained for the edification of their elders. More than 120 species in

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Over the Banner Grade

with DOROTHY R. HARVEY

While this season has been reported as not a particularly good one for desert flowers, on a recent trip we observed over a hundred different species. It is true that there are many if one looks carefully.

The *Ceanothus* has been particularly fine, and is yet on the Banner grade as is the *Yucca whipplei* and bush poppy, *Dendromecon rigida*. Farther on among the junipers the *Yucca mohavensis* is coming into bloom. The flower stalks of *Agave deserti* are shooting up, a few of them blooming now, and many more to come later.

In the San Felipe region the scarlet bugler, *Pentstemon centranthifolius*, covers several acres and there is also considerable thistle sage, *Salvia carduacea*, with its delicate lavender flowers with bright orange anthers and grayish spiny leaves.

The Ocotillo, *Fouquieria splendens* is perhaps at its best as are the various cacti, particularly the beaver tail, *Opuntia basilaris*, with its magenta flowers, the hedgehog, *Cereus engelmannii*, and the tall yellow-flowered barrel cactus, *Ferocactus acanthodes*.

Through Sentenac Canyon the bladder pod, *Isomeris arborea*, with its bright green leaves, yellow flowers and inflated pods, and the apricot mallow, *Sphaeralcea ambigua* are prominent. Beyond the bridge the hills are covered with the desert bush sunflower or incienso, *Encelia farinosa*, with its silvery gray foliage and masses of yellow flowers. The common name, "incienso," comes from the small globules of a yellowish resinous gum which are exuded from the branches. This gum was collected and burned as incense particularly in Lower California.

In the washes are smoke tree, *Dalea spinosa*, which flowers in June, desert willow, *Chilopsis linearis*, not a willow but a member of the *Bignonia* family, with long narrow leaves and seed pods and later, in June, with lovely pink flowers similar to catalpa. Also the mes-

quite, *Prosopis chilensis*, screw bean *Prosopis pubescens*, Cat-claw, *Acacia greggii*, and occasional ironwoods, *Olneya tesota*.

The creosote bush, *Larrea divaricata*, is perhaps the most characteristic and widespread shrub of our desert with its resinous green leaves, yellow flowers and fuzzy white fruits. Also prominent are the leafless bushes of *Beloperone californica* with its tubular red flowers. Beyond the Narrows, the small bushes of *Cassia armata* with its bright yellow flowers are abundant.

Burro-weed, *Franseria dumosa*, a low rounded, grayish shrub is abundant as is also the green *Hymenoclea salsola* with its peculiar papery white fruits.

April Meeting

Somewhat out of the common order for the San Diego Floral Association, the regular April meeting, and the Spring Flower show were held during the same week.

Two years ago, the members and friends of the association were given an informative and entertaining lecture by Professor and Mrs. Theodore D. Cockerell, and again at the April meeting the distinguished visiting speakers were welcomed. "The World Is My Garden" was the subject chosen, and with slides, Professor Cockerell explained Plant Introduction and Inspection of Plants from all parts of the world into our country. He said, "Introduction of Plants is worth while for people of California, for beauty and profit. Medals is a good way to commemorate persons who have done wonderful things to beautify California." He spoke of the Meyer medal—an honor of merit accredited Miss Kate O. Sessions, recently awarded—for her introduction of many varieties of plant life into California. The medal was exhibited and Miss Sessions explained some of the emblematic designs—one a Chinese poem.

Another member of the club—Mrs. Neff Bakkers whose Cactus and Succulent Nursery is known in many countries—this month, re-

ceived the honor of becoming a member of the National Horticultural Society. With specimens from her nursery, Mrs. Bakkers spoke briefly of the uncommon *Poinsettia crythirens* known as a coral tree; of the blood lily with its blood red fruit; coral bells; cactus geranium, and a mesembryanthemum which blooms at night.

Dewey Kelly introduced new redwood labels and materials for the markings.

Mrs. Mary A. Greer, president, at the close of the meeting urged every one to help make the coming Flower Show the BEST one. G.M.G.

The May Garden

(Continued from Page 2)

were set out earlier are now beginning to flower and are surely living up to advance notices. The month of May is the appointed time for setting out Chrysanthemum Plants for cutting flowers all during the Fall when other flowers are scarce. It really is worth while to take a little trouble in getting good named varieties. Five varieties of Button Chrysanthemums named after the Quintuplets are being featured this season and include five distinct colors, rather a cute idea for naming these very useful little flowers. The Pompon varieties also have their place in the cut flower scheme, not forgetting the large flowered varieties which will either produce a few very large blooms by dis-budding or huge quantities of medium sized ones by leaving more buds on the stems. It is not too late to plant Tuberosa bulbs if one has overlooked them in earlier plantings. Dahlia bulbs may be planted very successfully this month and even in to June. Some of the good varieties producing large blooms include: Honor Bright, pure bright bronze; Jane Cowl, bronzy buff and old gold, Spotlight, informal decorative, clear sulphur yellow; Thomas A. Edison, royal purple; J. K. Alexander, informal decorative, immense crimson red with a yellow fleck in center; Jersey Beauty, pink; New Pink Delice, deep rose pink;

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Spring Flower Show

(Continued from Page 6)

I can't go on and on about the arrangements, I suppose . . . but those new shadow boxes won't be put away in attics after the show, I know . . . My, but they were delicate little visions. The cyanic group (flowers magenta through violet blue) was very attractive, and fashionable this year, too. There was a slim thing of common petunia and lupin upon which I happened to agree with the judges.

Another thing, the decorated tables are undermining morals or I'm weakening . . . Strawberries and marshmallows are hard enough to resist and then someone had to go and surround a tall stemmed dish of mints with white cherokee roses. The impulse to snatch a mint was almost overpowering and it was the roses' fault, I assure you. . . . And I could have eaten the table in brown with the mixed centerpiece of mimulus, apricot viola, primula, columbine and toy ranunculus—eaten without salt. . . . Palm fibre mats are very nice for a patio table, too, and the tall jar of canned peaches struck me as most mouthwatering . . . (What you could do on a warm day with a big spoon!)

Noticed a long table of roses originated in San Diego county by you know whom . . . The rose class was grand, with that perfect Ophelia sort of showing new varieties what's what, too . . . And who doesn't find a miniature rock garden on a four dimensional swirl of desert sand attractive? And that person who's been bringing in new plants for rock gardens here had a new "catchfly", perennial candy-tuft and gypsophila, and a dwarf day lily, and things like that in a fascinating rockery . . . I told him I didn't think things like that would be interesting several years ago and now maybe I'll keep my mouth shut. . . Oh, I almost forgot the arrangements in bottles and the frank labels that made us chuckle. I ought to mention some more arrangements but there were the displays of miscellaneous flowers including columbine, salpiglossis this

early, and the hot house carnations that were grown outdoors without protection in Encinitas, and the carnation flowered poppies draped in black velvet, and tulips and dozens of other things . . . And did you notice the fine set up of native plants by one gentleman who's really going ahead with something. Certainly I snatched a leaf from the Satureja or San Miguel mint . . . You should grow that just to smell it . . . And what about that Puya Thomasiana from Peru, but growing in the Aloe and Agave garden? We should be told more about that at the next association meeting, also by you know whom.

A mile or so of table forested with dozens of hues of watsonia showed us something, too, finishing up with hybrid clivias by an Encinitas professional whose grandfather and father preceded him in learning the ways of clivias, though not in Encinitas. . . . He says they didn't have as good a place as that to grow clivias. . . . This professional donated his lovely display to the association for the auction Sunday night and the only trouble they had was turning would-be buyers away when the last armful was gone . . . I know I've left out lots but the copy reader won't think so. And he has the last word. . . . And do join me "Over the Garden Gate" Thursday mornings by dialing KGB at approximately thirty . . . I'd love to have your opinion on my garden program and besides they tell me it's good business!

Wildflowers at Grant

(Continued from Page 6)

all lined a large class room and filled generous tables in the center—species common and those as rare as the tiny, temperamental wind-poppy, and larger bushy beard-tongue, and let me tell you, one ten year old has passed an identification test one hundred per cent.

One feels the importance of this work in elementary education, for after all the people who attend Flower Shows were once children

and developed a yen for beauty somewhere along the line. The more children are inspired with a love of nature, the more sound citizens there will be for the problems we are leaving the future—patrons for more Flower Shows. Moreover, it is felt this work in the schools could be more widely known. The people who pay taxes should know what is being done for the generation they are underwriting.

So, thoughts develop into ideas. This yearly happening might well be transported to Balboa Park the two days of the larger show, and the work of Miss Mayme Carroll and her principal, Frank VanValin, take on a wider significance. In the end, an inter-school competition might result. Superintendent of Schools, Will Crawford, saw this exhibit and was impressed—whether to the extent of men and a truck for carriage must remain for another year to tell.—R. S. H.

PACIFIC BEACH FLOWER SHOW

Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7

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Dahlia Culture

(Continued from Page 5)

oughly once a week by making a hollow cup 2 inches deep around the plant; hoe carefully to prevent crust formations. As soon as the plant is about 18 inches high pinch out the center, which will insure the development of the lower branches with a proportionate increase of blooms. Then it is also time to tie the stems to the stake with a strong but soft cord made out of hemp.

About July first feeder roots will reach the surface, then cover the cup hole with a mulch several inches thick of well decayed manure or leafmold and discontinue hoeing. Keep all fertilizer away from the stem; build the soil up around the latter in order to accomplish this. Water regularly at least twice a week, or every third day, depending entirely on the weather.



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. . . with purple bells, and rustic wells, and a lot of new ideas on how to garden. No wonder the beds look so trim and the paths so neat, for the "Pater" spends more time than ever with his flowers, now that he has garden lighting . . . the evening is cooler, there's no sun on his back, and he has the week-ends left for the mountains or beach.

. . . and of course the "Mater" is proud, to say the least. A flick of the switch . . . and presto! The garden is transformed into a new magic setting for her parties, and evening gatherings . . . to say nothing of that June Wedding!

. . . There will be lots of fun in store with summer ahead, so you'd better start planning now for the good times in your garden by having one of our Company representatives call on you to make suggestions. There is no charge or obligation.

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Meyer Medal

(Continued from Page 2)

work in the field of Plant Introduction. My old friend, the medalist, Theodore Spicer Simson, offered to make the medal, and produced what I think is a unique and interesting one."

Miss Sessions was present at the meeting of the Floral Association April 18th and showed this medal and told something of her plant introductions, especially of the fan palm *Erythra brandegeei* which she obtained at the southern end of lower California. At a meeting of her class a few days later she referred to her introduction of *Fremontia mexicana*, one of the most beautiful shrubs grown in California Gardens. These are just two examples of her introductions and the people of San Diego feel very grateful that she has been a part of the horticultural life of this community. When one knows that only fourteen of these medals have been given, with four to foreign countries, one realizes the real honor that has come to her and the community.

Vivian Scott.

The May Garden

(Continued from Page 7)

Mt. Hood, white; Tretonian, old gold, amber and coppery bronze, and Gold Rush, bright golden yellow. There are dozens of splendid varieties so we just mention these few. The Pompon varieties are good for cutting and make very attractive plants in the garden, not growing quite as tall as the larger flowered sorts. *Gladiolus* will prove quite satisfactory if planted this month.

Vegetables: Carrots, Turnips, Beets, Beans, Sweet Corn, Radishes, Broccoli, Cucumbers, Canteloupes, Water Melons, Tomatoes Peppers, Eggplant, Swiss Chard, Kale and Squash.

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READ DAHLIA CULTURE THIS MONTH



Mr. Pfefferkorn does not claim to be an expert on dahlia culture although he has long been considered as such. His experience and conclusions on culture in this month's issue will be invaluable to those who grow this popular flower. Remarks on Seedlings, Harvesting and Exhibiting may be expected as the seasons come along. Watch for them.